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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,633	07/08/2002	Wilhelm Ansorge	100564-00103	1909
6449	7590	02/15/2005	EXAMINER	
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C. 1425 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			RILEY, JEZIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1637	

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Remarks***

1. Applicants' arguments, filed on 12/7/2004, have been approved and entered. They have been fully considered. The applicants amendments deleting the epoxide limitation in the claims overcome the rejection over Hogan and Lipshutz. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either newly applied or reiterated. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: The Y denoting isocyanate and isothiocyanate groups should be deleted since said group have been deleted from independent claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
4. Claims 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for using the solid phase for hybridization assays,

Art Unit: 1637

does not reasonably provide enablement for determining the function of a gene or metabolism. The claims are broadly drawn to method for determining the function of genes and a method for determining metabolism, comprising contacting free biopolymers with the immobilized biopolymers on a solid phase and correlating the interaction with the function gene or with metabolism. In the embodiments of the methods claims there is no disclosure of negative controls or conditions for positive controls under which the immobilized biopolymer should be used, for the selection of immobilized biopolymers that are specific to the desired targets.

The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The specification in pages 9-10 states that the solid phase can for example be used to sequence nucleic acids, to examine the expression of genes, the function of genes and metabolism. Instant claims 47 and 48, are broadly claiming the use of the solid phase for determining function of a gene and metabolism of any nucleic acid or PNA or peptides or polypeptides or lipids or carbohydrates. There is no disclosure or working examples where it is disclosed specific compositions that could be used for said methods. There is no disclosure of how one will select any nucleic acids, nucleic acid analogues, PNA, peptides, polypeptides, lipids or carbohydrates to practice the broadly claimed methods. There is no disclosure of how the said methods are performed and how said correlations are made as there is no disclosure of method steps for said correlations and how said function of a gene and metabolism are assessed. There is not disclosure of what type of function or metabolism is determined.

A broad possible range for negative controls are possible and in order to enable the selection of useful biopolymers, there is a need to set forth which negative controls is (are) to be used. Is there one organism that would be the negative control or a panel of organisms that would be the negative controls? It is undue experimentation to collect biopolymer, among the unspecified great number of organism, to determine the ones that would be used to detect the target in order to practice the broad scope of claims 47 and 48. These leave the entire work of finding biopolymers and what type of disease to detect up to someone wishing to practice claims 47 and 48 which is undue experimentation. Stackebrandt et al. (Patent # 5,089,386) disclose nucleic acid fragment capable of hybridizing to rRNA of *Listeria monocytogenes* and not to rRNA of *Bacillus subtilis*. They show a probe development strategy comprising: (1) Identifying regions of rRNA which might be useful as a target sites for nucleic acid hybridization probes. (2) These nucleotides sequences were compared to one another and to other rRNA nucleotide sequences. (3) Testing each nucleic acid probe is required. (4) Then first generation probes are designed and several other consideration are taken in count such as the geometry of the probe itself and self complementarity for example. In aggregate, the set of probes will detect most or all *Listeria* and few or no non-*Listeria*. Then the final step of probe design is to test the probes on real samples. (col.4 to col. 7). In col. 3, lines 6-19 the authors state that probes to *Listeria* rRNA target sequences which are sufficiently similar in a significant number of *Listeria* that one or a few probes can hybridize to the target region in those *Listeria* and are sufficiently different in most

Art Unit: 1637

non-Listeria rRNAs, that under some conditions where the probe(s) hybridize to Listeria rRNAs, they are not capable of hybridizing, or very poorly, to most non-Listeria rRNAs.

Therefore given the unpredictability of the art and the lack of guidance in the specification, it is the Examiner's position that one skilled in the art could not perform the method of the claims as broadly recited without undue experimentation.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 16, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishida et al. (US 5,200,270).

Ishida discloses a carrier for a biologically active component for immunoassay or enzymatic reaction, and a process for its preparation. The bead constituting the core of the carrier is made of a thermoplastic resin which includes a polyolefin. Then, magnetically responsive powder is deposited on the resin beads. The magnetically responsive powder may be a powder of iron, tri-iron tetroxide, nickel, iron-cobalt, silicon steel or a soft ferrite of the formula  $MFe_2O_4$  wherein M is Mn, Zn, Ni, Cd, Cu, Mg, Sr or Ba having an average particle size of from 0.01 to 10  $\mu m$ . Which is therefore viewed as the instant solid phase selected from metallic solid phases, oxidic solid phases and

metallic-oxidic solid phases. Then, a polymer is further coated on the magnetic resin beads for the purposes of preventing the magnetically responsive powder from falling off and binding a biologically active component such as antigens, antibodies or enzymes which is viewed to be inclusive of the biopolymers of instant claim 5. The magnetic resin beads have to be coated with a polymer having functional groups capable of binding such a biologically active component. For instance, when the beads are coated with a polymer having aldehyde groups, they react with amino groups of the antibodies, antigens or enzymes to form linkages of a Schiff base. (col. 3-4). Col. 12 shows that the magnetic beads had many aldehyde groups on their surfaces and anti-T4 monoclonal antibodies were immobilized utilizing these aldehyde group which is viewed as being inclusive of forming an array structure. An enzyme-labeled antigens were added and were subjected to the antigen-antibody reaction and the fluorescence intensity was measured. (example 11).

7. Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-15, 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 7 and 9 are allowed.

Art Unit: 1637

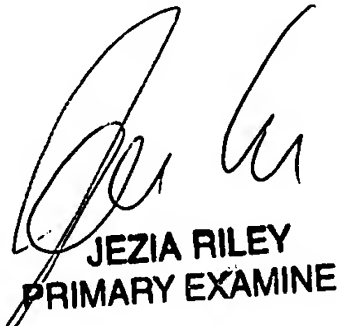
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is 571-272-0786.

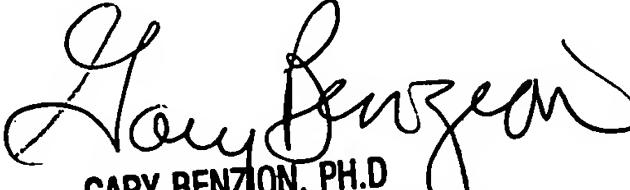
The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tuesday, February 14, 2005

  
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